

2017 RSVP Expansion Competition

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – March 31, 2017

This document supplements the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition Senior Corps Notice of Funding Opportunity and Application Instructions. These FAQs will be updated periodically. New or updated questions will be clearly indicated within each section.

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1. AWARD INFORMATION

Updated March 10, 2017

1.1. Is a separate application needed for each service area listed in Appendix A?

No. However, if you are applying to multiple counties across different states, you will need to complete one application per state. You would include all of the counties in that state that you wish to serve.

1.2. Can an organization that wins this competition sub contract to another organization to run RSVP?

No.

A volunteer station can be a public agency, secular or faith-based non-profit organization, or proprietary health care organization that accepts the responsibility for assignment and supervision of RSVP volunteers. Each volunteer station must be licensed or otherwise certified, when required, by the appropriate state or local government. Private homes are not volunteer stations. Informal groups do not qualify as volunteer stations.

7.2. What constitutes a volunteer “serving intensively on short term assignments?” For example, are there a minimum number of short term assignments required to justify counting a volunteer experience? Is there a benchmark for the number of hours per day or total assignment hours that is considered reasonable?

There is no minimum number of hours or assignments. This will vary based on each particular volunteer assignment developed by the RSVP. If using an assignment to satisfy performance measure requirements, please be sure to reference the “key definitions” and guidance on “how to measure/collect data” in Appendix B.

7.3. Is more than one volunteer station required?

There is no required number of volunteer stations. However, most RSVPs have many more than one station.

7.4. My organization is interested in starting new service activities in independent living. The service activities would take place in the homes of clients. We have not done this type of activity in the past. Can our organization be the volunteer station?

Yes, if your organization decides to start a new activity, you may use RSVP as volunteers in the activity. However, your organization may first want to consider if the activity fits with your organization’s mission and how you would provide RSVP volunteer oversight in accordance with the RSVP federal regulations regarding the responsibility of volunteer stations, which are outlined in 45 CFR §2553.62. <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b85e59ebf62526e584950250495a9120&node=45:4.1.9.11.35.6&rgn=div6>

This should also include obtaining letters of agreement for in home placements.

7.5. Can further comment be provided for volunteer station models where there is only a single volunteer station or just a small number of volunteer stations? Specifically, is it possible for an application that has a single volunteer station or just a small number of volunteer stations to receive an RSVP grant award?

Volunteer station models depend on such factors as the number of volunteers required for the opportunity, and whether the applicant satisfactorily addresses all selection criteria questions that pertain to volunteer station management and oversight. Therefore, it is possible that such an applicant would be granted an RSVP grant award. Applicant responses to selection criteria questions will be reviewed according to the process outlined in the Notice of Funding. Some of

9.15. Where can I find sample measurement tools for RSVP outputs and outcomes? The link in Appendix B does not work.

The National Performance Measures instruments for RSVP are located here:

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/performance-measurement/national-performance-measure-instruments-rsvp>. For each performance measure, you can click the link to find the “How to Calculate/Measure/Collect Data”.

10. OTHER

10.1. How do I know if my Notification of Intent to Apply was received?

You should have received an automatic reply if your Notification of Intent to Apply was successfully submitted. You should receive an email confirmation of your submission. These are sent on a weekly basis. However you may print this page for your records. A Notification of Intent to Apply is highly encouraged but is not required.

10.2. In the Executive Summary, should the service activities and sample outcomes listed be only from the Primary Focus Area?

The majority of service activities and outcomes listed should be from the Primary Focus Area, but other significant service activities and outcomes could be included from other Focus Areas.

10.3. Is there a contact person that I can send questions to about this competition?

All questions for this competition must be sent to 2017RSVP@cns.gov. Although there is not a contact person for one on one technical assistance, questions submitted to this inbox will receive responses through this FAQ document.

10.4. If an organization submits an application for this competition, is it obligated to remain in the competition until its completion, or can it withdraw its application at any time during the competition?

The organization can withdraw the application. If the organization does need to withdraw, please send an email as soon as possible to 2017RSVP@cns.gov at any time after grant application submission.

10.5. Why is the RSVP Expansion NOFA open to those who have not, or are not currently, operating RSVP programs?

In 2012, Congress established a competition framework for RSVP which opened up the process to all public, private, faith-based, veteran-service and not-for profit organizations. Opening up the competition beyond the existing grantee portfolio responds to the Congressional mandate and allows CNCS to support high quality applicants who may have been ineligible in the past.